

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJ: VAZQUEZ APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MIN VAZQUEZ AND I DISCUSSED HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT WITH THE SECRETARY AND RELATED MATTERS FOR APPROX TWO HOURS NOV 24. VAZQUEZ RECONFIRMED HIS APPT WITH SECY FOR NOV 30 AT 12 NOON, ACCEPTED WITH ALACRITY ASST SECY KUBISH'S PROPOSAL TO MEET AT 11 AM NOV 30, AND OUTLINED APPROACH HE WOULD TAKE WITH SECY. VAZQUEZ STATED THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE HIS VIEWS MORE IMMEDIACY HE WOULD PREFER TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH TO THE SECY AND AN INTERPRETER WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE REQUIRED. REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING VAZQUEZ SAID HE WOULD PRESENT A BROAD BRUSH PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN LATAM AS HE SEES IT AND HOW LA AND THE US SHOULD INTERACT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. VAZQUEZ RECEIVED ME AT HIS RESIDENCE AND READ THE MESSAGE FROM THE SECY (DEPTEL 231288). VAZQUEZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND PLEASURE WITH THE MESSAGE AND THE PROSPECT OF MEETING WITH THE SECY AND KUBISCH. VAZQUEZ SAID THAT OFFICIALLY HE WOULD BE A DELEGATION OF ONE BUT THAT ONE OR TWO FONOFF ADVISORS MAY ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT THE COLOMBIAN AMB TO WASHINGTON MAY ACCOMPANY HIM WHEN HE CALLS ON THE SECY.

2. VAZQUEZ BEGAN BY GIVING ME AGAIN HIS ANALYSIS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FONMINS MEETING, ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. VAZQUEZ THEN TURNED TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN MEXICO WITH THE SECY. HE SAID THAT THE KEY FONMINS ALL AGREE
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THIS MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN LATE FEB OR MARCH AT THE

LATEST. HE SAID THE MEXICANS HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO HOLD THE MEETING ON THE ISLAND OF COZUMEL OFF THE YUCATAN COAST. THIS DECISION, VAZQUEZ CLAIMS, WAS DICTATED BY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. THE MEXICANS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILEAN FONMIN GIVEN THE LARGE CHILEAN EXILE COMMUNITY IN MEXICO.

3. VAZQUEZ SAID THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECY HE WOULD NOT CONFRONT THE SECY WITH ANY DEMANDS, REQUESTS OR STATISTICS AS HE BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH OF THAT SORT OF THING. VAZQUEZ IS ESPECIALLY INSISTENT THAT LATAM CEASE PLAYING THE ROLE OF MENDICANT AND HE HOPES THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE NEW DIALOGUE WILL BE A CONTINENT CONSCIOUS OF ITS OWN WORTH AND DIGNITY AND CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN WORK OUT ITS OWN PROBLEMS. AS A COUNTERPOINT TO THIS THEME, VAZQUEZ BELIEVES THE US MUST CEASE WHAT HE REGARDS AS PETTY AND MYOPIC BEHAVIOR UNWORTHY OF A GREAT NATION. HE BEGAN BY MENTIONING US WILLINGNESS TO BACK AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN LA EVEN WHEN THEY ARE GUILTY OF THE MOST OUTRAGIOUS BEHAVIOR SUCH AS ITT IN CHILE. VAZQUEZ, HOWEVER, LAID SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS OUR USE OF INFLUENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES TO HOLD UP DEVELOPMENTAL LOANS TO PRESSURE COUNTRIES INTO ABANDONING POSITIONS NOT TO OUR LIKING. HE ALLEGED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE US IS GUILTY OF HOLDING UP AN IDB LOAN FOR POTABLE WATER TO ECUADOR BECAUSE OF ITS POSITION ON THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA.

4. WE THEN DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA. VERY LITTLE NEW EMERGED FROM THIS DISCUSSION. THE DEPT IS AWARE THAT EVEN THOUGH OTHERS HAVE HAD THE SAME IDEA, NAMELY CALVANI OF VENEZUELA, VAZQUEZ CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE THE ORIGINATOR OF THE CONCEPT OF THE PATRIMONIAL SEA AND BELIEVES THAT SOME VARIATION ON THIS CONCEPT CAN PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE US AND LA.

5. VAZQUEZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE MUST ALSO ACQUAINT THE SECY WITH THE VIEW OF MOST OF THE FONMINS OF LA THAT THE OAS IS A MORIBUND ORGANIZATION. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THE OAS MUST BE COMPLETELY REORGANIZED AND ITS SITE MOVED TO LA. HE ADDED THAT THE MOVE WAS NECESSARY IF ONLY BECAUSE THE OAS MEETS IN A TOTAL MEDIA VACUUM. A MEETING OF BOY SCOUTS, VAZQUEZ ASSERTED, GETS MORE ATTENTION IN THE WASHINGTON POST THAN THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETINGS

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OF THE OAS.

6. VAZQUEZ DISCUSSED HIS CONVICTION THAT COLOMBIA CAN PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND LA. COLOMBIA, HE SAID, IS A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY WITH NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE US, AND WE WANT THESE CLOSE AND BENEFICIAL RELATIONS TO CONTINUE. AT THE SAME TIME, VAZQUEZ EMPHASIZED, WE HAVE A SOLID AND EARNED REPUTATION AS GOOD LATIN AMERICANS

WITH HIGHLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH THE MORE RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS OF LA (VAZQUEZ PROBABLY OVERESTIMATES COLOMBIA'S CAPACITY TO ACT AS AN INTERPRETER OF LA TO THE US AND VICE VERSA BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION HE BELIEVES THAT COLOMBIA SHOULD PLAY THIS ROLE.)

7. THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO PUT UP ANY RESOLUTE DEFENSE AGAINST THIS OR THAT ALLEGATION, I PREFERRED TO BRING OUT HIS CONCERNS BY QUESTIONING BELIEVING THIS APPROACH TO BE MORE VALUABLE FOR PRESENT PURPOSES.

8. AS I WAS LEAVING WE RETURNED TO THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT. I MENTIONED KUBISCH'S IDEA OF A WORKING LUNCH ALSO EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR POSTPONING A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT. VAZQUEZ RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS HIS FRIEND ASST SECY KUBISCH MADE, BUT SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WOULD BE JUST AS HAPPY TO LEAVE WASHINGTON AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE SECY IN ORDER TO GO TO NY TO VISIT WITH HIS TWO SISTERS WHO LIVE THERE. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, MRS. VAZQUEZ SAID THAT SHE WAS CONSIDERING ACCOMPANYING HER HUSBAND AND WOULD LET ME KNOW BY NOV 27.

9. FINALLY, VAZQUEZ WANTED TO KNOW HOW LONG HE WOULD HAVE WITH THE SECY. I REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD MENTIONED THAT THE MEETING NEED ONLY TAKE THIRTY MINUTES, AND SAID I HAD SO INFORMED DEPARTMENT. VAZQUEZ SAID HE HOPED THE MEETING COULD BE CLOSER TO AN HOUR IN ORDER THAT BOTH PARTIES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN VIEWS FULLY.

10. FONOFF JUST CALLED TO ADVISE MRS VAZQUEZ WILL ACCOMPANY THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO WASHINGTON.
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